



**Submission for the First LAC Regional Consultation on Nature-Based
Solutions
Children and Youth Major Group
June 2023**

Children and Youth Major Group submission to the intergovernmental consultation following up on the UNEA Resolution 5/5 (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5) on Nature-based Solutions in reply to the co-chairs' invitation *to provide input in relation to the overall aim of the intergovernmental consultations and the three specific tasks for the consultations specified in the resolution.* CYMG presents its contributions to the following points:

1. The overall aim of the intergovernmental consultations
2. Examples of best practices

The overall aim of the intergovernmental consultations

Children and Youth Major Group is pleased to take part in the consultations happening on June 22nd and 23rd, as a way to share the vision of the global youth on what we can do to contribute to the implementation of nature-based solutions in solving/mitigating the effects of the climate change in the natural world and human societies. We share the vision that young people should also be taken into account when thinking about nature-based solutions since we have the power to contribute to the discussion around the topic by sharing our novel ideas and the projects that young people have done.

We at CYMG believe that nature-based solutions can be a great tool in achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals, but that would only work if there is cooperation (whether multilateral or bilateral) between Member States and other Stakeholders. We also stand for our common philosophy that nature-based solutions should be implemented taking into account the welfare of the communities most affected by the triple planetary crisis, in order to best benefit them.

This is a compilation list of projects that utilize nature-based solutions as way to combat the consequences of the climate crisis, and for this submission, we compiled two examples from the LAC region. For each one, we have written a summary of their goals and development process as well as their outcomes and sources of finance.



Examples of best practices

Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil

Indigenous community-led reforestation and agroforestry countering Amazonian deforestation in Villages in the Southeastern Amazon along the shared border between the Mato Grosso and Pará states. The Kayapó indigenous peoples are consistently fighting to defend their ancestral land from the deforestation pressures facing the Amazon. These defensive actions to preserve the integrity of their land are further supported by investments in sustainable farming and agroforestry to reduce community impacts on the ecosystems they aim to protect.

Nature-based Intervention:

- The Instituto Raoni protects and surveils over two million hectares of indigenous land, including the largest remaining contiguous segment of the Amazon rainforest. Perhaps most famously, Instituto Raoni, after discovering the importance of images in their first contact with mass communication media, encourages young Kayapó community members to act as “video warriors” documenting illegal logging and other activities that risk the integrity of their land. Furthermore, Instituto Raoni works to enable and teach sustainable agriculture and agroforestry methods to support the conservation of their land. In particular, Kayapó women play a key role in their communities as the sole custodians of agriculture and work to recover degraded land and implement agroforestry principles. One of the main interventions has been the reduction in the use of fire to prepare land for agriculture to both reduce the communities’ carbon emissions and the impact of forest fires. Partnerships with NGOs have allowed for the expansion of sustainable agricultural practices, community farms, and the conservation of traditional crop varieties to further bring community needs into harmony with the surrounding landscape and ecosystem. Efforts to strengthen sustainable production chains have allowed the selling of handicrafts and non-timber forest products.

Overview of context and outcomes:

- The Kayapó indigenous peoples’ land is located in the so-called “Deforestation Ring” of the Amazon where deforestation pressures are most severe. Their territory is also part of the South Amazon Ecotones Ecological Corridor which is remarkably rich in biodiversity. The Kayapó have therefore long fought to defend the land from deforestation and have come to form the Instituto Raoni as the unifying authority of this campaign.



Climate change Mitigation:

- The use of fire in agriculture is reported to be the Kayapó communities' highest source of carbon emissions. Thus, the significant efforts employed to reduce reliance on this practice is likely to contribute to mitigating the communities' climate change impact.
- Although not quantified, the reduced reliance on fire in agricultural practices is likely to limit the risk of fires spreading and further contributing to deforestation.

Ecosystem health:

- It is reported that Kayapó women have recovered 13 hectares of degraded land through the implementation of agroforestry systems with an emphasis on the planting of native fruit species. The protection of territory threatened by deforestation is likely to contribute to the conservation of the rich biodiversity and forest connectivity of the region.

Socioeconomic outcomes:

- The strengthening of fair-trade production chains, including the production of non-timber forest products like honey, is reported to have generated income between BRL \$500.00 (US\$134) and BRL \$2,000.00 (US \$36) for nearly 70 indigenous families.

Finance:

- The Kayapó's courageous actions have attracted a vast array of financial supporters including many international organizations, NGOs, and local funding partners.

El Salvador

Ecosystem-based approaches to mangrove and wetland restoration are being employed by communities in the Paz River basin, unblocking freshwater channels, removing silt in mangrove canals, and conducting a community surveillance program enforcing a Local Plan for Sustainable Extraction to strengthen and recover the local wetland ecosystem.

Nature-based Intervention:

- A local NGO Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (UNES) in cooperation with the IUCN is implementing various ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation aiming to counter adverse impacts. First, the organisation is working to unblock and remove silt from channels and mangrove canals in the river basin to recover the hydrodynamics of the ecosystem so that freshwater can enter and restore optimal salinity levels in the mangrove system. Second, UNES is promoting the restoration of degraded mangrove areas which include areas felled for livestock grazing. Seeing as unsustainable fishing practices are known to contribute to the destruction of the mangrove ecosystem, UNES designed and implemented a Local Plan for Sustainable Extraction (PLES) to ensure that local livelihoods dependent on fish, crustaceans, and mammals align with conservation needs.



Overview of context and outcomes:

- Coastal communities in the Paz River basin of El Salvador are directly dependent on ecosystem services provided by the surrounding wetlands. However, the integrity and reliability of these ecosystem services are threatened by sea level rise, mangrove loss, increased incidence of droughts, saltwater intrusion, and flooding.

Climate change mitigation:

- Although no mitigation outcomes were reported, it is likely that the mangrove restoration and afforestation efforts could contribute to increasing the area's carbon sequestration potential.
- Community members reported that houses behind a barrier of mangroves were better protected during high tides. Community members also reported that the mangrove restoration efforts had increased the productivity of local fisheries likely improving food and income security for local communities.

Ecosystem health:

- Community members reported the success of surveillance measures in ensuring mangroves were able to recover. Furthermore, crab populations are reported to have recovered since the implementation of the interventions. The efforts employed to clear the drainage channels in the Aguacate micro-watershed have reportedly benefited the ecosystem through the improved mixture of fresh and saltwater in the mangrove ecosystem. This improvement is reported to have helped mangroves flourish even in the dry season.

Socioeconomic outcomes:

- A post-project impact assessment found that the interventions had created jobs for women in the mangrove channel clearing and reforestation work. Furthermore, greater social cohesion was reported as an outcome of the project.

Finance:

- This project was funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.